

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINAI 00643 171750Z

43

ACTION SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 SAB-01 L-03 IGA-02

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R 171710Z APR 76

FM USMISSION SINAI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 376

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINAI 0643

FOR SSM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS,

SUBJECT: GOE TELEPHONE CABLE IN GIDDI PASS

1. ON MARCH 4 COL. IBRAHIM SULIMAN, CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, THIRD EGYPTIAN ARUGY, CALLED AT BASE CAMP AND ADVISED EXECUTIVE OFFICER THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVIDE FOUR TELEPHONE LINES FROM THE EGYPTIAN CABLE IN GIDDI PASS TO SFM BASE CAMP. THE EGYPTIAN CABLE PRESENTLY TERMINATES AT THE GOE SURVEILLANCE SITE, E-1. UPON HEARING THIS NEWS I DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH MAJ. GEN. MAGDUB, GOE CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER, AND HE CONFIRMED THE OFFER. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER OR NOT CABLE LAYING IN THE BUFFER ZONE OF THIS SORT WAS CUSTOMARILY CLEARED WITH THE UN, GEN. MAGDUB REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

2. ON APR 6 COL. IBRAHIM CAME AGAIN TO SFM BASE CAMP AND STATED THAT HE WOULD LAY THE TELEPHONE LINES ON THE GROUND PARALLEL TO THE ROAD WHICH LEADS FROM FROM THE GIDDI PASS UP ONTO THE HIGH GROUND TO CHECKPOINT BRAVO AND SFM BASE CAMP. I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE ISRAELI WATER LINE IS LAID WITHIN TWO METERS

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PAGE 02 SINAI 00643 171750Z

OF THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE ROAD, THAT THE ISRAELI TELEPHONE

CABLE IS BURIED WITHIN TWO METERS OF THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE ROAD AND THAT I WAS SURE THERE WOULD BE OBJECTIONS BY THE ISRAELIS AND PERHAPS BY THE UN. (GEN. SILASVUO MUST HAVE KNOWN OF THIS BECAUSE HE MENTIONED IT TO ME IN PASSING ON MARCH 26 AND STATED THAT, IF CONSULTED, THE UN WOULD NOT AGREE.

WHEN ASKED BY COL. IBRAHIM AS TO WHAT I THOUGHT THE BEST WAY OF LAYING THE TELEPHONE LINE I RECOMMENDED THAT THEY LAY IT WITH THE GOE CABLE ON THE GIDDI PASS FROM THE POINT NEAREST THE LOCATION OF THE SFM PERMANENT CAMP AND THAT THEY BEGIN THE LINE FROM THAT POINT UP THE WADI TO HIGH GROUND AT THE CAMP.

3. ON APR 12 COL. IBRAHIM AND HIS MEN LAID TWO TELEPHONE LINES FROM THE JUNCTION AT GIDDI PASS AND ALONG THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE ROAD ALL THE WAY TO CHECKPOINT BRAVO. THE SENIOR ISRAELI LIAISON OFFICER CAME TO THE BASE CAMP AND INFORMED ME THAT ISRAEL WOULD LODGE A PROTEST AND REQUEST A MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION. WITHIN MINUTES AFTER THAT GEN. LILJESTRAND, FORCE COMMANDER UNEF, INFORMED ME ON THE RADIO THAT HE WOULD INSTRUCT COL. IBRAHIM TO CEASE WORK ON THE LINE AT ONCE.

4. ON APRIL 13 COL. IBRAHIM AND HIS CREW LAID A SECOND PAIR OF TELEPHONE LINES TO CHECKPOINT BRAVO AND THE SCENE AND ACTORS WERE IDENTICAL.

5. ON APRIL 16 GEN. LILJESTRAND CALLED ME ON THE RADIO AND STATED THAT HE HAD TOLD COL. IBRAHIM THAT IF THE CONNECTION OF FOUR TELEPHONE LINES TO THE GOE CABLE IN THE GIDDI PASS WAS NOT CUT BY 1000 HOURS APRIL 17, THE UNEF WOULD CUT IT.

6. AT 1000 HOURS APRIL 17 THE UNEF CUT THE FOUR TELEPHONE LINES WHERE THEY JOINED THE GOE TELEPHONE CABLE ALONG THE GIDDI PASS ROAD.

7. IN CONVERSATION WITH GEN. LILJESTRAND ON APRIL 16 I ASKED WHETHER OR NOT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINAI 00643 171750Z

MAJ. GEN. MAGDUB OR SOME OTHER FAIRLY SENIOR GOE OFFICIAL. HE STATED TMNT HE WOULD, BUT I DO NOT KNOW IF HE HAD, AND HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT HIM SINCE THE EVENING OF APRIL 16 AS HE HAS BEEN ON A TRIP. THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE THAT I HAVE SEEN OF AN APPARENT COMPLETE FAILURE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GEN. LILJESTRAND AND THE EGYPTIANS. IT MAY PERHAPS STEM FROM THE FACT THAT GEN. SILASVUO IS ABSENT ON A VISIT TO FINLAND.

8. WILL ADVISE WHATEVER SEQUENCE DEVELOPS.  
THORNE

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